

Robert Bonson

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District member of the Republican State Central Committee. In January, 1894, the General Assembly elected him warden of the State Penitentiary at Fort Madison. He was re-elected by the assemblies of 1896 and 1898 after which the Board of Control reappointed him, so that he served until March 31, 1908, in all fourteen years. He then retired to Griswold where his son, Charles Rutgar Jones, was engaged in the practice of medicine, and near where his son, Jesse N., was farming. Mr. Jones had a faculty for making friendships and retaining them. He was regarded as one of the leaders of the Republican party in his part of the state. He was an efficient sheriff, and he successfully administered the difficult duties of warden, exhibiting qualities of integrity, ability, firmness and good judgment.

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ROBERT BONSON was born in Dubuque County, Iowa, January 5, 1868, and died in Dubuque December 13, 1933. His parents were Richard and Harriet (Watts) Bonson. He attended public school, was graduated from Dubuque High School, from the Law Department of the State University of Iowa in 1890, and from the Law School of Columbia University, New York City, in 1892. He began practice in Dubuque, first in partnership with Robert Stewart. Later he had partnerships with H. C. Kenline and R. P. Roedell, and after retiring from the judgeship, with John P. Frantzen. In 1895 he was elected senator to fill the unexpired term of Isaac W. Baldwin and served in the Twenty-sixth General Assembly, 1896, and also in the Twenty-sixth Extra, 1897, the code revision session. He was not a candidate again, and gave his attention to his practice, but in 1906 was elected judge of the Nineteenth Judicial District and served for ten years when he resigned and re-entered private practice. He acted with the Democratic party so far as party matters were concerned. He took much interest in community affairs. He gave unstintingly of his time and talent in the establishment and later in the operation of the Sunnycrest Sanitarium, the county tuberculosis hospital. He stood high in his profession as a lawyer, and made an enviable record as a judge, while his admirable personal and social qualities made him a general favorite of the public.

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JAMES ELLIOTT HARLAN was born in Muskingum County, Ohio, June 25, 1845, and died in Mount Vernon, Iowa, December 13, 1933. His parents were Samuel and Sarah Ann (Elliott) Harlan. The family removed to southeastern Iowa in 1857. James spent his boyhood principally on his father's farm. In October, 1863, he entered Cornell College as a freshman student. On May 15, 1864, he enlisted from Mahaska County in Company D, Forty-fourth Iowa Infantry, and was mustered out September 15, 1864, at the expiration of his service. He was graduated from Cornell College with the degree of A. B. in 1869. From 1869 to 1872 he was superintendent of the public schools of Cedar Rapids. He received his A. M. degree from Cornell College in 1872, and for the year 1872-73 was principal of a ward school in Sterling, Illinois. In

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